

FADE IN:

EXT. ELEMENTARY SCHOOL - DAY

Outside the brightly painted school the sun SHINES, birds CHIRP, dogs WAG, PUSH THROUGH A WINDOW TO...

INT. MS. BITTERS CLASSROOM - DAY

GRIM and GRAY with COBWEBBY CRACKED WALLS. QUICK CUTS show miserable kids suffering through their school day. A WIDER ANGLE reveals the class in a sluggish stupor as MS. BITTERS drones through a lesson. INVADER ZIM, however, takes it in with curious fascination. Bitters holds up a crude DRAWING of a HAPPY SPACEMAN zipping through a field of stars.

MS. BITTERS

... so you see, Melvin, were you to actually wear this "spacesuit" that you draw yourself in for your report, you would implode in the merciless vacuum of space.

The drawing suddenly bursts into FLAMES.

ANGLE ON: poor Melvin, who inhales a sharp, shocked GASP.

Zim giggles at Melvin's clear stupidity.

MS. BITTERS

Do you find something amusing, ZIM?

Slight delay as Zim processes the question. He nods.

ZIM

Yesssss . . .

Ms. Bitters furrows her brow in disgust and turns away to continue her lesson. Dib's head slowly peaks into frame as he scrutinizes his extraordinary classmate. Just as slowly, his head creeps out of frame. Zim is oblivious. Dib settles back into his seat and leans conspiratorially over to the BOY next to him.

DIB

I'm telling you, the new kid's an alien.

BOY

Pssst. This is just like the "Bigfoot" thing, or the Loch Ness

monster....thing.

DIB
But I really did see the Loch
Ness Monster in the Gymnasium
Pool! I have photographic
evidence!

He whips out the classic grainy photo of Nessie peaking out
of The Loch.

BOY
Zim's an alien . . . right.

CLOSER ON ZIM. We see him furiously inputting on some sort
of FLASHING, BEEPING note-taking synergizer. BACK TO DIB

DIB
See that?! He didn't buy that
thing at Radio Shack!

Some kids check to see where Dib's pointing, but by now the
synergizer's gone. Ms. Bitters GLARES at him and the kids
go back to their seats. Dib bubbles with frustration.
Ninja-like, he leaps from his seat and onto one facing Zim.

DIB
Whether or not the people in
this classroom believe me, I
will expose you for what you
really are.

Zim gives Dib a scared, sincerely concerned look.

ZIM
What am I?

DIB
An ALIEN!

ZIM
An alien? That's silly human.

The lunch bell RINGS and everyone runs out of the classroom,

INT. CAFETERIA - DAY

Kids are sitting at various tables having lunch, including
Dib and his sister GAZ. Zim comes off the lunch line
carrying a tray and sits at a table by himself. He takes a
forkful of macaroni and, feigning eating, FLINGS IT behind
him into a small bucket that's hanging on his back. Then he

feels oddly conspicuous and looks to find Dib WATCHING HIM THROUGH A TELESCOPE. Zim WHISTLES, trying to act casual. ANGLE ON DIB AND GAZ

DIB

Look at him, Gaz. He's not eating the cafeteria food.

GAZ

I don't like it either. I'm eating food from home. Does that make me an alien?

From OFFSCREEN, a heated CONVERSATION:

KID #1

Hey!

Dib and Gaz look off to the left. We PAN over to reveal... KID #1 dripping with food goo. Kid #2 peels his tray off the ruined tee shirt of his classmate. Kid #1 flails, tipping his tray over and spilling a brown, stew like substance onto the head of Kid #2, who reacts as though he's been doused with acid. SCREAMING and clutching his eyes, KID #2 stumbles away. A HEAD pops into frame SHOUTING:

KID #3

FOOD FIGHT!

Suddenly, the air is thick with a volley of food.

Zim, thoroughly confused and terrified, spots the glowing green "EXIT" sign above the door. He leaps to his feet, his eyes not leaving the sign. From his POV, the sign sways and bobs as he runs toward it. WHACK! He's hit in the head with a blob of mush. Immediately, his head inflates to three times normal size and, topheavy, he flops to the floor.

Dib bounces out of his seat, pointing at Zim's hideousness.

DIB

There! Gaz, that is definately not normal. This is the perfect-

He is toppled by an errant mass of flying food and hits the floor with a GRUNT. He looks to Gaz's empty seat.

DIB

Gaz?

His gazed shoots to where Zim once lay, where there is now only a trail of MUCOUS leading out the door,

EXT. ZIM'S HOUSE - DAY

Gaz drags Zim by his feet to the front porch of his strange little home. The lawn is eerie with gnomes. Gaz drops him and he groggily stands, patting the dust from his clothes.

ZIM

Well, thank you for dragging me home.
How did you know where I live?

GAZ

While you were unconscious, you kept muttering about the location of your "secret hideout."

ZIM

Mm. Why did you help me?

GAZ

You looked like you needed a hand.

ZIM

Nonsense. I need help from no one. I'm normal. See my hair?

He points to his tussled pompadour wig. A large allergy boil on his head POPS and SPITS PUS.

ZIM

Well, I better get going now.
(he turns to the door)
Into my perfectly normal earthling domicile.

Zim OPENS the door and his ROBO-PARENTS slide on their track into the doorway.

ZIM

Hi, mom. Hi dad.

ROBO-DAD

Wake up son, time for school.

ROBO-MOM

Pancakes dear?

Robo-parents quickly ROLL BACK on their track, out of frame. GIR, in his dog-suit, SAUNTERS BY on his hind legs.

GiR

Hey, how's it going?

GAZ

Mm-hmm.

Gaz hurries off. CLOSE ON Zim as he CACKLES in glee.

ZIM

The fool!

He begins to LAUGH the laugh of a world conquerer, but is cut short by a hideous coughing fit.

ZIM

Gir!

Gir quickly WHIRS up and salutes.

GIR

Yes sir!

Zim points at his leaking head.

GIR (cont'd)

Okee-dokee!

Gir quickly zips down his dog suit, revealing his robotic self. A panel slides open on his head. He leaps up and flips over, attaching himself to Zim's gigantic head. There is a WHIRRING, SQUISHING, and GRINDING noise as his head is being deflated. A vacuum bag attached to GIR quickly FILLS with head gunk. Once Zim is deflated, Gir flops back upright, slings the bag over his shoulder and EXITS frame.

Zim approaches a TOILET situated right next to refrigerator.

ZIM

Gir, watch the house while I enter my spooky underground lair.

GIR

Yes, my Lord.

Gir marches briefly before becoming distracted by the TV.

GIR (cont'd)

Cartoons!

Gir leaps out of frame and flops into a couch, instantly drooling. He is surrounded by snacks.

Zim, deadly serious, sits in the toilet and PULLS THE FLUSHER. It SPIRALS HIM DOWN into the bowl.

INT. ZIM'S COMMUNICATIONS POD

A GLOWING PIPE protrudes from the ceiling. Zim spirals out of the pipe and lands in his chair. Quickly, a screen drops from above. Zim's hand shoots out, hitting a button. The SCREECH of a MODEM is heard. THE ALMIGHTY TALLEST (one wearing RED, one in PURPLE) appear on screen, distracted.

RED
Yeah, what is it?
ZIM
Invader Zim reporting from Earth.

PURPLE
Where'd he say?

RED
Earth. It's... somewhere.

PURPLE
Make it brief, Zim, we're in the middle of something very important.

INT. IRK - DAY

RED and PURPLE each stand in boxer shorts holding a Rock 'em Sock 'em puppet.

ZIM
Truly, you will find this fascinating. The humans, they fight with food. Any keen mind will understand the implication-

Red's eyes fill with impatient terror.

RED
It's not brief enough!

Red quickly hits the disconnect button.

INT. ZIM'S COMMUNICATIONS POD

Zim stares quizzically at television SNOW. He blinks twice.

INT. MEMBRANE KITCHEN - DAY

Gaz sits at the table mechanically munching cereal as her brother paces back and forth behind her.

DIB
I almost had him! He was

unconscious, somebody must have helped him. Someone has turned traitor to their own planet and allied themselves with the forces of evil! What sort of person turns traitor to their own planet and allies themselves with the forces of evil?

CLOSE ON GAZ. As she speaks she becomes more and more agitated, clenching her spoon and spilling cereal.

GAZ

I don't know, maybe somebody whose sick to death of your constant babbling and who can't take any more of being used as a guinea pig for your stupid experiments. Maybe.

DIB

But is that really enough reason to turn traitor to your own planet and ally yourself with the forces of evil?

GAZ

(shrugs)

Nya.

DIB

One good thing did come of this. We know now that Zim is extremely allergic to something that was being served in the cafeteria. I just have to find out what it was on the menu that made his head explode like that. If everyone sees it then there will be no question!

GAZ

This is just like the Loch Ness monster and the Bigfoot thing. It's always something.

DIB

But-

He whips out a photo of Bigfoot.

GAZ

Yeah, I know, the picture.

DIB
If only just one person would
believe-

GAZ
Tell it to dad.

Dib spins around to look at his father, PROFESSOR MEMBRANE,
a FORMIDABLE FIGURE in his lab coat, who has been
industriously working in one corner of the kitchen.

DIB
Dad . . . ?
A LARGE HAND whips into frame, cutting him short.

PROFESSOR MEMBRANE
Not now, son. I'm making...toast!

From in front of the Professor there are LIGHTNING BOLTS AND
SPARKS. He pivots around holding up a rather pedestrian
piece of toasted bread. Immediately from the edges of the
frame, MICROPHONES, CAMERAS AND MEMBERS OF THE PRESS APPEAR.

A newspaper spins in from blackness. When it stops, the
headline reads: "PROFESSOR MEMBRANE INVENTS NEW STRAIN OF
SUPER TOAST: "GOODBYE WORLD HUNGER" SAYS HUNGRY PEOPLE"

Dib just sighs and WALKS BACK OUT of the room.

INT. ZIM'S COMMUNICATION POD

Zim continues to stare at the snowy monitor. A KLAXON
sounds, startling him. GIR'S VOICE over an intercom:

GIR (O.S.)
Sir, there's somebody in the
bushes. Aieeeeeeeee!

Zim springs to life, hitting a button. The screen displays
an image of Zim's gnome infested lawn. Zim toggles a
joystick and the camera moves.

EXT. ZIM'S HOUSE - NIGHT

CLOSE on GNOME. Accompanied by an electronic WHIR, the
gnome turns it's head, it's eyes glowing red. GNOME POV: A
SHADOWY FIGURE dashes out of the light cast by a streetlamp.

The Gnome turns again. This time facing the doorstep of the
house. A FLOPPY DISC rests on the doormat.

INT. ZIM'S COMMUNICATION POD - NIGHT

Zim looks curiously at the monitor, his mouth over the mic.

ZIM
A computer disc? Fetch it my
filthy lawn gnome.

EXT. ZIM'S HOUSE - NIGHT

The Gnome pops up and wheels itself over to the porch. It picks up the diskette and drops it into the mouth of another lawn gnome. The disk is sucked into the bowels of the house.

INT. ZIM'S COMMUNICATION POD - NIGHT

The disk falls directly from a pneumatic tube into Zim's waiting hand. In one smooth motion, he pops it into his drive. A SILHOUETTE, obviously Gaz's, fills the screen and a computer processed VOICE meant to obscure the owner's identity issued forth.

GAZ
A word of warning. There's going
to be another food fight tomorrow
at 12:04, the sole intent of which
is to expose your true identity.

We hear a DOOR OPENING and a BEAM OF LIGHT shines into what is clearly a bedroom.

DIB's voice
Did you eat all the cereal?

GAZ
Get out of my room!

The door slams and she returns to her ominous persona.

GAZ
Don't say you weren't warned.

The screen goes to SNOW.

ZIM
Expose me? We'll see about that.

Zim pulls down the microphone.

ZIM
Gir, meet me in the Making Stuff
Room.

Zim hits a button and is sucked out of his chair.

INT. MAKING STUFF ROOM - NIGHT

Zim is propelled into the frame from above and lands solidly on his feet. He is posed as if ready for anything.

Gir shoots out of a pneumatic tube from the side smacking into a wall. He immediately recovers and zips over to the side of his master.

ZIM
It's time to show the earth boy
the meaning of superior being.
Zim stands still in his "ready for action" pose. Gir
wobbles a little.

GIR
Woo!

INT. SCHOOL CAFETERIA - DAY

It's lunch hour. Everything is seemingly normal, chattering kids eating at tables, etc. ANGLE ON Gaz, eyes darting around. She checks the wall clock. It reads "12:02". ANGLE ON doorway: Zim enters the cafeteria wearing a BULKY ROBOT SUIT poorly made up to resemble Zim's "human disguise." He confidently SAUNTERS through the room, TOSSING OFF SALUTATIONS, clearly thinking he's inconspicuous. Various REACTION SHOTS of horrified children, mouths agape.

Zim nonchalantly takes a tray of food to his seat.

Gaz surveys the scene with bemused interest.

GAZ
This should be interesting.
Zim sits before his food, only his darting eyes visible beneath his armor. ANGLE ON CLOCK as the hand hits "12:04".

DIB
Hey, Zim!
Zim's head turns in the direction of the RUCKUS.

Dib stands between two lunch tables, each fist dripping with mounds of food. The first fistful is flung.

ZIM'S POV: His visor displays the words: "INCOMING OBJECT.
FORCE FIELD ACTIVATED."

The food is diverted from its straightforward path and WHACKS into the back of an eating child's head. Without hesitation, the CHILD roars:

CHILD
Food fight!

And instantly, the cafeteria erupts into a foodfight of apocalyptic proportions, dwarfing the previous one.

Dib steps forward, launching his second attack.

Zim activates a magnetic field between his open palms, capturing the projectile in it. The foodhunk floats in midair.

ZIM
Now. It's my turn!

The food launches directly back at Dib, hitting him squarely in the head and knocking his head clean off! The head rolls across the food spattered floor and stops right before the entrance. The door swings open and out steps the real Dib! He has an arm mounted, food launching device with a rotating chamber.

ZIM
A robot decoy! Clever for a human!
Whoo, what you got there?

Dib looks with pride at his arm mounted cannon.

DIB
Oh, this little thing? Just something I threw together. It's an arm mounted multi chambered, food launcher designed to cycle through everything that's ever been served here in the cafeteria. Sooner or later, I'll find one you're allergic to! And thanks to my super accurate guidance system, I can't miss! Try Spaghetti and Ham!

He aims and a clumpy substance loads into the chamber. The guidance system HUMS to life.

ZIM
You'll have to get through my food

repellant force field!

Dib FIRES. The Spaghetti and Ham is deflected.

DIB
Ketchup and rice combo!

Red and white mush is launched and deflected.

Gaz comes up from under a table, using a tray as a shield. She looks from her brother to Zim while blocking a projectile carton of milk without even looking, whips the tray around and stops a glob of mashed potatoes from soiling her person. She exits to the right and we follow her until we see a KID we haven't seen before, he stares off to the left, shocked at something he sees there.

Everything suddenly goes to SLOW MOTION.

KID
Billy!

BILLY lies face down in a puddle of gruel.

The Kid is seen from below, filled with rage.

KID
Noooooooooooo!

KID runs and leaps heroically towards BILLY, whom he throws over one shoulder and runs off to safety with

Zim is now under full assault as a barrage of colors hammers against his shield. Dib SCREAMS as his cannon fires food machine gun rapid. Zim's shield dims momentarily and a blob gets through, splattering against his metallic hide. There is a sound of BROKEN MACHINERY and then a high SQUEAL.

ZIM'S POV: His readout reads: "Malfunction! Malfunction!"

Suddenly, food and silverware start gravitating toward Zim's armor. A SCREAM emanates from deep within.

A nearby CHILD clutches onto the edge of a table, legs sticking out behind him, trying with all his strength to resist the pull of ZIM's suit. It is useless to resist, however, as the CHILD, along with dozens of children, all go flying at ZIM, sticking to him like magnets. ZIM's suit can take no more punishment, and a crack appears in his visor.

DIB'S POV: A beeping tracking sound is heard as a "LOCK-ON" target zooms in on the newly formed crack in ZIM's armor.

ZIM
With or without me, my people
will rule this planet! The coming
invasion will not be stopped by
your...burritos!

DIB
We'll see about THAT.

Dib taps a few buttons on his arm panel, programming the launcher to stuff the chambers with all remaining foodstuffs on the list. The launcher quivers and swells at this critical level, as DIB raises it up at ZIM, whose eyes reflect absolute terror.

DIB cackles maniacally as he presses the launch button, but the device does not fire. A computer voice, from the arm panel, says, " WARNING! WARNING! GUIDANCE SYSTEM UNIT MISSING! ". He looks at his backpack, and sees a hole where the GUIDANCE SYSTEM should be.

DIB
WHAT THE...!??
Suddenly the launcher does let loose, and what spews forth is a hideous nightmare of lunch. It SCREAMS around the cafeteria undecidedly, like a mad hornet. It finally settles on a target, DIB, who shrieks in horror as the blob slams down on him. There is an EXPLOSION of food.

Once the dust settles, Ms. Bitters stands in the doorway.

MS. BITTERS
Who started. . . this?

All fingers point at Dib.

INT. CLASSROOM - 3:30 PM.

It's detention. Ms. Bitters sits at her desk, looking over a pile of homework. Still covered in food, Dib is at the blackboard, writing over and over "ZIM IS NOT AN ALIEN."

DIB
I would have had him if only the
guidance system hadn't disappeared.

MS. BITTERS
If I hear another PEEP out of you,
young man, it's detention until you
graduate. Aliens..

She returns her attention to the pile on her desk. As soon as she does, Dib quickly writes after every sentence "YES HE IS! YES HE IS!" Through a window Dib sees Zim's SAUCER II RISE OFF THE LANDSCAPE AND SPUTTER IN THE AIR.

ZIM

PEEP!

The SAUCER rises beyond the view of the window and vanishes.

MS. BITTERS glares at Dib again, eyes burning with fury. Dib looks up at MS. BITTERS with a desperate "WHO? ME?" face.

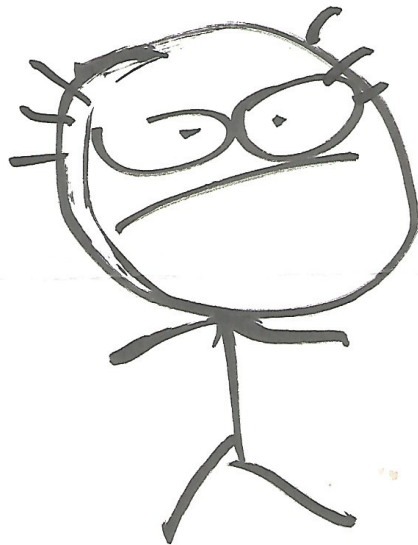
INT. MYSTERY SPACE - LATER

AS CREDITS ROLL: BLACK. The sound of a COMBINATION LOCK being turned. The locker door OPENS, revealing a low lit GAZ. A CROOKED SMILE creeps across her face as she flicks the disconnected GUIDANCE SYTEM DEVICE into it. We follow it as it bounces into the catacombs beneath the school.

It is snapped from midair by THE LOCH NESS MONSTER who swallows it with a healthy GULP. BIGFOOT sits on the floor, a game of solitaire spread out before him.

END

ROB



DAMN YOU
ALL!

ASQUIDULOR!!

While watching, "Mysterious Mysteries of Strange Mystery". DIB learns that an orbiting device has crashed into the ocean. Suspecting alien activity, DIB decides he must find this device himself.

Meanwhile ZIM in his lab notices that one of his refrigeration units is gone. ZIM begins shrieking about "burgling intruders". Until GIR tells him that GIR was the one that threw it into the ocean. ~~Zim is about to~~ ~~shriek at GIR when his eye catches the monitor.~~ Zim sees the same story that DIB just watched. ZIM screams when he learns that the humans have found the unit and they are going to bring it up from the murky depths. ZIM must get it back before the humans reach it. As ZIM readies his ship, the monitor announces that only one thing can stop the humans, the underwater monstrosity known as SQUIDULOR! ZIM panics until the announcer says that SQUIDULOR has disappeared. ZIM sighs in relief. Then the announcer says he has been eaten by MEGASQUIDULOR! ZIM screams like a woman.

DIB asks PROFESSOR MEMBRANE for a ride to the ocean. He puts DIB in a submersible robot controlled car. ZIM arrives at the ocean at the same time. His ship disguised as a huge, spherical pelican (about 10x normal pelican). Since MEGASQUIDULOR isn't on his radar and the humans are on the beach, ZIM is confident that his mission will be an easy one... until he spots DIB driving directly toward his refrigerator. ZIM grins at the challenge. Mad chasing ensues. MEGASQUIDULOR makes his first appearance, gracefully swimming up behind the two submersibles. ZIM and DIB are too caught up in their own rivalry to notice the sea beast. MEGASQUIDULOR bumps DIB's craft, sending DIB off course temporarily, leaving ZIM to get the refrigerator. Before his submarine's tiny robot arms can get a good grip on it, MEGASQUIDULOR snatches it from him. ZIM is irate and begins to taunt the squid monster. Threatening it with the might of his technology. MEGASQUIDULOR lazily grabs ZIM's ship, and swallows it and cripples it in the process. DIB, back in the action, trains a x-ray on MEGASQUIDULOR, where he can see ZIM, his broken ship, and the refrigerator, which DIB absolutely must have. DIB politely asks MEGASQUIDULOR if he will swallow him as well. "Okay" MEGASQUIDULOR gurgles does.

Once inside, DIB makes a self-righteous speech about the superiority of his species over ZIM's. To DIB's surprise, ZIM agrees, offering to help DIB load the refrigerator into DIB's vehicle. DIB continues to arrogantly talk about how much better he is than ZIM while ZIM loads up the refrigerator and, without a word, launches DIB's submarine out of MEGASQUIDULOR'S mouth, leaving DIB stranded inside. DIB looks over at the forlorn SQUIDULOR, who's also been recently eaten. DIB pulls out his computer and makes a call home. GAZ answers and calls for dad, informing him that his son is in The Squid. DIB waits. DIB waits some more. We don't.